

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Tony Wood	Hank Guess	David L. Williams
Charlotte C. Williams	Aldermen	David P. Zagaroli
Danny Seaver		Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were: Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller, Assistant City Manager Rick Beasley, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Governmental Affairs Analyst Sarah Prencipe and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Guess called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Reverend David Roberts, Morning Star First Baptist Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
  - A. Recognition of the Catawba Valley Youth Soccer Association 04 Blast Blue Girls Team National Champions

Mayor Guess asked Mr. Jeff Schellenberger, the Director of Coaching at the Catawba Valley Youth Soccer Association to the podium for a presentation and recognition. He noted present was the National Champions of the Catawba Valley Youth Soccer Association Blast Blue Girls Team. Coach Schellenberger was going to present, and he wanted to make sure that they recognized the accomplishments of these young ladies. He thanked Coach Schellenberger for being present.

Coach Jeff Schellenberger Catawba Valley Youth Soccer Association presented a PowerPoint Presentation. He advised he needed to make a correction. He jokingly said he was the Director of Coaching, and his wife was the Coach.

Mayor Guess commented and all of the males in this room understood that.

Coach Schellenberger figured they could appreciate that, but otherwise he wouldn't be allowed back in the house tonight when he got home. He shared a short segment about the club and the team. He was asked to make a brief presentation on the turf field as well. The turf field was installed in June of 2020. It had been a huge asset to the club since it had been installed and it had been used a lot to say the least. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a picture from the teams fall tournament which usually fell either the first or second weekend in November. This past year, even with Covid, they still had 85 teams. Normally they had somewhere between 100-110 teams. The photo was looking east over field two. They also serve the adult soccer players in the community. Again, that field had been a big plus for them. They have over 100 adults playing in two separate leagues. As somebody told him when he started forming the adult league, it was a form of therapy for the adults. It was like an emotional release for them because some of the men and women get a little crazy when they play, but afterwards it was like all was good. It was kind of funny too. You watch people his age trying to play and, you know, their body just does not function sometimes the way they wanted it to. He referred to a photo on the PowerPoint and advised it was a photo of their little blasters, 3 and ½ to 6-year-olds. With the installation of the field, it was right next to the pavilion, and if anybody's ever had little kids, you know, that they like to go to the restroom a lot. It had been a big asset to have that there. He referred to another photo which was their youth academy, and those players were 6 to 10-year-olds. Again, it was very close to the restroom center pavilion. One of the other coaches runs the Youth Academy and they have about 100 kids in Youth Academy. In the fall and spring, probably three or four times in that timeframe, they would have about 20-25 teams come out. Because the field was made nice and big, they were able to put four smaller fields on there for the little kids and it had worked out tremendously for them. He referred to a photo on the PowerPoint and advised it was raining pretty good that day, but they were still able to get those games in the rain. He showed a picture from last fall, just before a tournament. He advised they were ever out there at night, or had been to the park they knew that there was a river very close by and the river obviously likes to leave its mark on that park. He referred to the photo and commented this was one of the nicer marks that it does, and they always call it the big giant ghost that comes in and fogs up the practices and sometimes they could not see the people on the field next to them. It was still pretty cool. When it does rain, it was very beneficial to have that field because they were always able to practice on the field. In years past, they used to go in the parking lot a lot and it was not always the safest thing. They never had any serious injuries on the parking lot, thank goodness, but with the turf, it had been great. He believed everybody knew there was a huge flood last fall, right around November 11<sup>th</sup>, and the whole park was flooded and most of the fields were not wiped out, but there was a lot of sand over the fields and stuff. Because of the turf they were able to continue to practice. He thought they had to stay off the field for two weeks till they knew that everything was fine, but after that they were able to practice the entire time through the winter, through the spring and they really did not have to reschedule any games. He referred to another photo

and advised it was a typical spring season from last year. He pointed out it said P.S.C. 2, Pepsi Soccer Complex II, which was field two. The first group of games would start at 8:30 a.m., and the last game started at 6:00 p.m. They did not have to cancel any of the games. That was another huge benefit for having that facility and the turf field. It was great to have. He knew some of their parents say thank you, but he was also here to say thank you for doing that for them. They were hopeful that Council may consider putting a second field in, but they were extremely grateful to have that, and he thought because of that field this was one of the reasons the team was so successful.

Coach Schellenberger discussed the team. He referred to a photo which was the girls training in the fall. It was actually probably late August. He referred to another photo and advised they probably could not see it, but there was a little bit of a rainbow in the corner of the photo. He got them all together and it was a pretty good picture. They were all very happy and smiling. He showed more team pictures. One was of them where they had played in a showcase tournament in Greensboro, and they did very well in that. It was just a showcase so there were no winners or losers or anything like that, but it was three games and they played, and they competed. The bottom line for that showcase was that it got them ready to do what they did this summer. The other picture was mid-June when they played in the Southeast Regional Championship. The girls won that. They played four games and the final was on June 15. It was pretty exciting. They won that event two years ago as well and they went to Commerce, Colorado and they finished fifth that time. It was always a little joke between him and his wife, because they look at each other and were like okay, it looks like they were going to Colorado. Two years ago, they did not go to the beach, they went to Colorado, which was not bad. These girls were great people, and they were a lot of fun to be with and the parents that came were also very good. He referred to another photo which was almost everybody that came to Colorado. With the team there was 19 players, Coach Sue, and himself and then there was probably another 15-20 adults and siblings that came out to the game. He referred to a photo that was the picture of the girls up on the stage with the big trophy. One of the girl's parents drove all the way to Colorado and then they actually brought the trophy back. It was pretty cool that happened. They wanted to say thank you. He read the names of the girls and asked them to come up to the front. He didn't think all of them were present, but at least three quarters of them were present. Abby Bryant from Morganton, defender; Molly Chang from Hickory, defender; Harper Everly was not present, she was a midfielder, from Hickory; Mira Fogel, played in the midfield, from Hickory; Skylar Georges, a forward, from Morganton; Ava Hartman, midfielder, from somewhere between here and Morganton; Juliette Hessong from Hickory, a forward; Masha Johnson, midfielder, from Hickory; Meredith Jones was not present, from Hickory, a forward; Alexa Lopez, from Lincolnton, a forward; Maddie Mosteller, a midfielder, from Hickory; Kaylee Ollis, one of their goalkeepers, from Morganton; Yurani Regino from Morganton, a midfielder; Sydney Sparks from Hickory, a midfielder; Sophie Van De Klashorst from Hickory, a midfielder; Katie Whalen from Hickory, a defender; Alexis Wolgemuth from Hickory, their other goalkeeper; and Kylie Yang, midfielder and she and her mother were the transporter of their trophy and colleagues from Hickory. He recognized his wife Coach Sue. He introduced their Team Captain Olivia Beane who wanted to speak.

Olivia Beane commented this was Blast Blue 04. She had been Captain of this team for a little bit, but they were all like family, so no one was really Captain. She had been with the Catawba Valley Youth Soccer Association (CVYSA) since she was four years old and over the past couple of years, she had seen the club develop into a very highly competitive team and club. With the addition of this turf field, it had helped them compete at high levels and bring it to Hickory. Not just travel to other places. Mostly everywhere they go, they play on turf. They were able to bring the competition to Hickory this time. When they go and they train on their own, either with their team or by themselves on the weekends, it was not just soccer players from CVYSA, it was members of the community where there was for instance a Saturday croquet team playing or flag family football. The field was being used in many other ways besides their club, which was awesome to see. With their teams and playing, they were able to train three times a week which was needed for the high level that they have because they were playing games. Sometimes with this league they have three games in one weekend. They were able to train three times in a week. She thanked Council on behalf of the team and the club for this turf field and the opportunity that they had given them to train at such a high level and compete and actually win. That was awesome.

Photos were taken of the team, the trophy, and the coach.

Coach Schellenberger commented he met Olivia when she was four years old, and she was in the little blasters program. It had been pretty neat to see her grow up.

Mayor Guess congratulated Captain Olivia, Coach Sue, and Coach Jeff and all of the team. He noted the City had a partnership with CVYSA for quite some time and it had been a terrific partnership and they knew that it was going to continue, but it was not every day that Hickory gets represented on the national stage. They were honored and privileged that they had brought this National Championship to Hickory. He congratulated each and

every one of them and they were looking forward to their many successes and accomplishments in the future. They wanted them to come back and they wanted to hear about their accomplishments and successes as they grow and as they go on in life. He thanked them for being present and once again on behalf of the entire Council congratulated them. He commented that really makes you confident when you see the youth that were in here and know that was the future of the community. That was really encouraging.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

A. Dalton Childress, 1675 Richey Road, Taylorsville, NC regarding Highland Recreation Skatepark.

Dalton Childress, 1675 Richey Road, addressed City Council. He advised he was 18 years-old and he was a part of the Bethlehem Community, in Alexander County. He appreciated each and every one of them for taking the time to listen to him. He had provided a brochure to Council that included facts about BMX inside skateparks and copies of signed petitions. As some of the people present knew, he rode BMX. He started riding BMX around four years ago. Every single summer he was outside riding around his neighborhood. When he got his license, he would drive to Hickory and ride his bike around Hickory. He would ride in downtown Hickory, places off 127 in Vermont and even the bike trails, as well as many other places. Every one of those places were either not meant for BMX or he would be asked to leave by owners or the Hickory City Police. Once the Stanford Skatepark reopened, he saw an opportunity to ride his bike in a safe and legal environment. He started going frequently and made some friends. He was progressing at an outstanding rate because of the skatepark. He was told by one of the employees that worked at the Highland Recreation Center that they had no problem with him riding. A few months passed and damages appeared at the skatepark. Without even talking to the community, the Recreation Department automatically assumed that bikers caused it. He was then told that he was not allowed to ride his bike in the skatepark. Without a place to ride he decided to go back and talk to the local skateboarders. They told him that the damages were caused by the people that installed it, not bikers. He was then told that day by park employees that if he came back on his bike that he would be trespassing and banned from the property. They said that he was not allowed to ride his bike and that bikers had never been allowed. They said this because the warranty of the protection armor on the ramps, which was used by many professional BMX riders, so this was false. The sign also says that everyone in the park was to have helmets on at all times. He had only witnessed one person wearing a helmet. Why was one rule enforced, but another wasn't? This summer had been the most that he had not been on his bike because of the lack of places for him to ride. The closest skatepark for bikers was in Mooresville. The local skateboarders had built a DIY Skatepark off of Old Lenoir Road. He would not go there for the fear that he would not be welcomed. He also felt safer at Stanford Skatepark. He had reached out to his County's Councilmen. They told him that if they were to build a skatepark in Alexander County, it would be at least five years out. That was, even if it did get approved, which was highly unlikely. He had many supporters and potential sponsorships. As of yesterday morning, he was notified that a BMX team wanted him to be on their team. Without a place to ride he could not improve and could potentially miss out on future sponsorships. He asked Council to allow bikes into Stanford Skatepark, not just for him but for the upcoming generation of this community. Many kids had seen him riding his bike around and they asked their parents if they could have one. It saddened him to see no place for BMX to grow in this City. He had made lots of friends from BMX. Some of them had quit riding because there was simply no place for them to go. Changing this rule would increase skatepark activity and let children have a safe and legal place to ride their bikes. He thanked Council.

Mayor Guess asked if anyone else wished to address City Council. No one else appeared.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of July 20, 2021

Alderman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Williams that the Minutes of July 20, 2021, be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Reaffirmation and Ratification of Second Readings. Votes recorded on first reading will be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading unless Council Members change their votes and so indicate on second reading.

Alderman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli that the following be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Budget Revision Number 1. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

- B. Consideration of Rezoning Petition 21-02 of Property Owned by REC Group LLC and RECL NC LLC, Containing Approximately 137.299 acres of Property, Located between Short Road and Eller Drive, Identified as PINs 3711-1684-4173, 3711-1961-5646, 3711-1962-2278, 3711-1962-8108, 3711-1672-6809, 3711-1683-7965, and 3711-1684-9988. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

VIII. Consent Agenda: All items below will be enacted by vote of City Council. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered under Item IX.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously,

- A. Approved on First Reading the Implementation of a Speed Limit Reduction to 25 MPH along 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW between 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW and 4<sup>th</sup> Street Drive NW.

Staff requests Council's approval to implement a speed limit reduction to 25mph along 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW between 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW and 4<sup>th</sup> Street Drive NW. City Council implemented a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program that enables citizens to request measures to improve traffic safety in the area where they own property. Citizens are required to apply to request measures and provide a reason for the request. Then, the City performs analysis to determine what, if any, measures are warranted. Citizens requesting traffic calming measures are required to complete and submit a petition with 75 percent of properties in favor of implementation for the request to move forward. Traffic Division Staff received the completed petition from property owners along 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW from 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW to 4<sup>th</sup> Street Drive NW with regards to the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program and have found the property owners to be in compliance with the guidelines. The petition does qualify for a speed limit reduction to 25mph. Twenty-Four properties were included in the petition and eighteen properties signed in favor of implementation. This represents at least 75 percent approval, which meets the requirement. The necessary sign modifications along the roadway can be performed as a normal part of the Traffic Division's signs/markings shop operations. Staff recommends Council's approval to implement a speed limit reduction to 25mph along 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW between 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW and 4<sup>th</sup> Street Drive NW.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-24  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE HICKORY CITY COUNCIL  
AMENDING THE TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AUTHORIZED IN THE  
HICKORY CODE OF ORDINANCES – ARTICLE III, SECTION 18-81

WHEREAS, Article III of the City of Hickory Code of Ordinances be and is hereby amended through the modification of the official maps authorized therein as follows, to wit:

Amend the Traffic Ordinance by reducing the speed limit along 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NW from 6<sup>th</sup> St NW to 4<sup>th</sup> St Dr NW 25 mph.

All ordinances or provisions of the Hickory City Code of Ordinances which are not in conformance with the provisions of the Amendment occurring herein are repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

- B. Approved the Implementation of an All-Way Stop at the Intersection of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE at 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE.

Staff requests Council's approval to implement an all-way stop at the intersection of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE at 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE. City Council implemented a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program that enables citizens to request measures to improve traffic safety in the area where they own property. Citizens are required to apply to request measures and provide a reason for the request. Then, the City performs analysis to determine what, if any, measures are warranted. Citizens requesting traffic calming measures are required to complete and submit a petition with 75 percent of properties in favor of implementation for the request to move forward. Traffic Division Staff received the completed petition from property owners along 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE from 8<sup>th</sup> Street Drive NE to 16<sup>th</sup> Street NE, along 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE from 8<sup>th</sup> Street Drive NE to 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, and along 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Place NE with regards to the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program and have found the property owners to be in compliance with the guidelines. The petition does qualify for an all-way stop at the location of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE at 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE. Seventy-Three (73) properties were included in the petition and fifty-five properties signed in favor of implementation. This represents at least 75 percent approval, which meets the requirement. The necessary sign modifications along the roadway can be performed as a normal part of the Traffic Division's signs/markings shop operations. Staff recommends Council's approval to implement an all-way stop at the intersection of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE at 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE.

- C. Approved the Issuance of a Pyrotechnic Display Permit to Starfire Pyrotechnics for a Fireworks Display at Hickory Motor Speedway.

Staff requests approval to issue a pyrotechnic display permit to Starfire Pyrotechnics for fireworks display at the Hickory Motor Speedway for Saturday, August 21, 2021 (rain date, Sunday, August 22, 2021). Kevin Piercy, General Manager of the Hickory Motor Speedway, has submitted a request to obtain permission to conduct a public fireworks display. The North Carolina Fire Code requires an operational permit for the use and handling of pyrotechnic special effects material. The Hickory Fire Department Fire & Life Safety Division shall review all required documentation for the event, including Alcohol Tobacco and Firearm's (ATF) License, Operator and Assistant Operators Permits from North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal (NCOSFM), Site Plan, and the one million dollar liability insurance policy. The Fire & Life Safety Division will also inspect the pyrotechnics display area before the event to ensure compliance with NCOSFM Guidelines, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) NFPA 1123 Code for Fireworks Display, and NFPA 1126 Use of Pyrotechnics Before a Proximate Audience (if applicable). Staff recommends approval of the above pyrotechnics displays.

- D. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 24.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-25  
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 24

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory that, pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 159.15 and 159.13.2, the following revision be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, and for the duration of the Project Ordinances noted herein.

SECTION 1. To amend the Water and Sewer Fund within the FY 2020-21 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Environmental Protection	-	305,855
TOTAL	-	305,855

To provide funding for the above, the Water and Sewer Fund revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	-	305,855
TOTAL	-	305,855

SECTION 2. To amend the Capital Reserve Fund within the FY 2020-21 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Uses	-	305,855
TOTAL	-	305,855

To provide funding for the above, the Capital Reserve revenues will be amended as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Other Financing Sources	-	305,855
TOTAL	-	305,855

SECTION 3. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

- E. Approved on First Reading Budget Revision Number 2.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-26  
BUDGET REVISION NUMBER 2

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory that, pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 159.15 and 159.13.2, the following revision be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and for the duration of the Project Ordinances noted herein.

SECTION 1. To amend the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund within the FY 2021-22 Budget Ordinance, the expenditures shall be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Economic & Community Development	59,000	59,000

TOTAL	59,000	59,000
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SECTION 2. Copies of the budget revision shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

- IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None
- X. Informational Item
- XI. New Business:
  - A. Public Hearings

- 1. Approved the Voluntary Contiguous Annexation of Property Owned by Kermit L. Eckard, and Donald Kevin Eckard, Containing Approximately 1.44 acres of Property, located at 2630 25<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Hickory, Identified as PIN 3724-18-30-0717 – Presentation by Planning Director Brian Frazier.

Staff requests Council’s consideration of the voluntary contiguous annexation of 1.44 acres of property located at 2630 25<sup>th</sup> Street NE. This property is identified as PIN 3724-18-30-0717. The Eckard’s have petitioned for the voluntary contiguous annexation of 1.44 acres of property located at 2630 25<sup>th</sup> Street NE. The property is currently located within the City’s ETJ and zoned Residential – 2 (R-2). The annexation is being requested to connect to the City’s sewer system. Under the current zoning the property can be developed for single-family residential uses at a density of four dwelling units per acre. Given the current zoning, the property could theoretically yield four dwelling units; however, the property lacks adequate street frontage for more than two lots, and an existing single-family home is located on the property. The current tax value of the property is \$126,300. If annexed with its present value, the property would generate additional tax revenues of \$792.50. This number was generated using the FY 21/22 tax rate of \$0.6275. Upon analysis, staff has determined the petition meets the statutory requirements for voluntary contiguous annexation, and adequate public services are available. Staff finds the petition to be in conformity with applicable statutes and recommends approval of the petition.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on July 23, 2021.

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller apologized for City Manager Warren Wood’s absence as he was under the weather and had asked Mr. Miller to fill in. He asked Planning Director Brian Frazier to the podium to present Council with a voluntary contiguous annexation of property owned by Kermit and Donald Eckard.

Planning Director Brian Frazier presented a PowerPoint presentation. He discussed a voluntary contiguous annexation in Northeast Hickory. The applicants were Donald and Kermit Eckard, the property was located at 2630 25<sup>th</sup> Street NE, and contained just under half an acre. The closest ward would be Alderwoman Patton in ward number six. The current development was single family detached residence. There was no future development beyond the existing home that was there. Annexation was being requested to connect to public utilities, in this case sewer. He referred to the PowerPoint and displayed a map. He pointed out the subject property, the area which was in the City, and the area located in the extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). He pointed out Kool Park Road to the north, 29<sup>th</sup>, and Springs Road to the south. He advised this was contiguous to the Grayfield Development. He pointed out Haven Wood and Brookfield developments. He pointed out the location of the property and advised all of the surrounding area was R-2 zoning. He displayed an aerial ortho of the annexation site. He noted the existing house and there were several outbuildings or accessory buildings on the property. The voluntary annexation petition complied with all applicable State annexation statutes and there were adequate public services available. The annexation of the property, per staff’s recommendation, would not cause available public services to fall below acceptable levels. Based upon these findings, City staff recommended approval of the requested annexation. He asked for any questions.

Mayor Guess asked Council for any questions. He explained the rules for conducting the public hearing. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. He asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess closed the public hearing.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the voluntary contiguous annexation of the Eckard property. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NO. 467  
VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION ORDINANCE (CONTIGUOUS)  
Donald Kevin Eckard and Kermit Lynn Eckard

AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, PURSUANT TO GENERAL STATUTES 160A-58.1, AS AMENDED (CONTIGUOUS)

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory desires to annex the area described herein, under G.S. 160A-58.1, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has by resolution directed the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of said annexation; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk has certified to the sufficiency of said request, and a public hearing on the question of this annexation was held in the Council Chambers of the Julian G. Whitener Municipal Building, located at 76 North Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina, at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd day of August 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory further finds that the area described therein meets the standards of G.S. 160A-58.1(b), to wit:

- a. The nearest point on the proposed satellite corporate limits is not more than three miles from the corporate limits of the City of Hickory.
- b. No point on the proposed satellite corporate limits is closer to another city than to the City of Hickory.
- c. The areas described are so situated that the City will be able to provide services on the same basis within the proposed satellite corporate limits that it provides within the primary corporate limits.
- d. No subdivision, as defined in G.S. 160A-376, will be fragmented by this proposed annexation.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory does hereby find as a fact that said petition has been signed by all the owners of real property in the area who are required by law to sign and all other requirements of G.S. 160A-58.1, as amended have been complied with; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that the annexation is otherwise valid, and that the public health, safety, and welfare of the City of Hickory and of the areas proposed for annexation will be best served by annexing the area herein described.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA:

Section 1. By virtue of the authority granted by G.S. 160A-58.2, as amended, the following-described contiguous territory is hereby annexed and made a part of the City of Hickory as of the 31st day of August 2021:

Contiguous Annexation of the property of  
Donald Kevin Eckard and Kermit Lynn Eckard

That certain parcel or tract of land lying and being about 3.95 miles east northeast of the center of the City of Hickory. Bounded on the north by the lands of Eric J. McElroy as described in Deed Book 3025 at Page 1503, the existing City of Hickory city limits as shown in Plat Book 46 at Page 98; on the east by the existing City of Hickory city limits as shown in Plat Book 52 at Page 17; on the south by the lands of Cam & Cole Properties as described in Deed Book 2751 at Page 406 and on the west by the right-of-way of 25th Street NE and more particularly described as follows to wit.

Beginning at a ¾" pipe in the east right-of-way of 25th Street NE, the southwest corner of the lands of Eric J. McElroy as described in Deed Book 3025 at Page 1503, said pipe being located South 38 degrees 32 minutes 56 seconds East 53.97 feet from a mag nail in the intersection of 23rd Street Drive NE and 25th Street NE and running thence, as a new City of Hickory city limits line and with the southeast line of McElroy, North 51 degrees 59 minutes 56 seconds East 106.84 feet to a 2"

pipe, the northeast corner of McElroy in the south line of the lands of Alan Swengel as described in Deed Book 3207 at Page 1748 and in the existing City of Hickory city limits line as shown in Plat Book 46 at Page 98; thence, with the existing City of Hickory city limits line, South 76 degrees 25 minutes 11 seconds East 163.34 feet to a ½" rod, the southeast corner of Swengel in the west line of the lands of Needlestone Homeowners Association as described in Deed Book 2248 at Page 649 and in the existing City of Hickory city limits line as shown in Plat Book 52 at Page 17; thence, with the existing City of Hickory city limits line, South 07 degrees 09 minutes 00 seconds East 237.88 feet to a ½" rod, the northeast corner of the lands of Cam & Cole Properties as described in Deed Book 2751 at Page 406 in the west line of Needlestone Homeowners Association and in the existing City of Hickory city limits line; thence, leaving the existing City of Hickory city limits line, with the north of Cam & Cole Properties, a new City of Hickory city limits line, South 88 degrees 30 minutes 48 seconds West 250.30 feet to a ½" rebar in the west right-of-way of 25th Street NE; thence with said right-of-way North 05 degrees 55 minutes 58 seconds West 216.25 feet to the beginning. Containing 1.444 acres more or less.

Section 2. Upon and after the 31st day of August 2021, the above-described territory and its citizens and property shall be subject to all debts, laws, ordinances, and regulations in force in the City of Hickory and shall be entitled to the same privileges and benefits as other parts of the City of Hickory. Said territory shall be subject to municipal taxes according to G.S. 160A-58.10, as amended.

Section 3. The newly-annexed territory described herein shall become part of Ward No. 6 of the City of Hickory.

Section 4. The Mayor of the City of Hickory shall cause to be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Catawba County, and in the Office of the Secretary of State at Raleigh, North Carolina, an accurate map of the annexed territory, described in Section 1 hereof, together with duly certified copy of this Ordinance. Such a map shall also be delivered to the County Board of Elections, as required by G.S. 163-288.1.

2. Approved the Community Development Block Grant 2019 Annual Action Plan Amendment for CARES Act Funding – Presentation by Community Development Manager Karen Dickerson.

Staff requests Council's consideration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2019 Annual Action Plan Amendment for CARES Act Funding. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Securities Act (CARES Act) made available two billion dollars in supplemental CDBG funding for grants to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Per the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), grantees of the Community Development Block Grant may use funds for a range of eligible activities that plan for, prevent, and respond to the spread of infectious diseases such as the coronavirus. The City of Hickory has received \$468,830 in Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 (CDBG-CV) funds to be used specifically to deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The third 2019 Annual Action Plan Amendment will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development upon approval by Council. This plan serves as the City's strategy for administering 2019 amended CDBG-CV federal funds to plan for, prevent, and respond to the coronavirus and COVID-19. The original budget of these funds included \$66,343 for CDBG-CV Program Administration and \$402,487 for emergency assistance payments through a local non-profit partner agency. As we near the end of this funding, staff administration time for this grant is reduced. City Staff recommends amending the Annual Action Plan to reflect a move in funding from the CDBG-CV Program Administration to the CDBG-CV Public Service Activities to allow continued emergency assistance to citizens who are still dealing with the effects of COVID-19. In order to move these funds, it is necessary to amend the 2019 Annual Action Plan. Decrease 2019 CDBG-CV Program Administration \$59,000. Increase GHCCM Neighborhood Engagement Financial Aid Program \$59,000. Staff recommends City Council's approval of the 2019 Annual Action Plan Amendment.

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller asked Community Development Manager Karen Dickerson to the podium to present Council with the Community Development Block Grant 2019 Annual Action Plan Amendment for CARES Act Funding.

Community Development Manager Karen Dickerson presented a PowerPoint presentation. She advised she had been before Council several times with different amendments in regard to the City's 2019 Annual Action Plan. She advised she was coming before them again requesting a small amendment. She refreshed Council's memory, on March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the



CARES Act. It was \$2 billion dollars made available to the Community Development Block Grant in Coronavirus funding, which meant that they had to use it to prepare for, prevent, or respond to Coronavirus. The City received \$468,830 in total. These funds must be used to support Coronavirus disease response. They reviewed their options and as Council was aware, they partnered with Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry to help dispense these funds to the City in terms of up to three months of rental assistance, and up to six months of utility assistance, water, sewer, power, and electric. They were nearing the end of this funding and because of that, the amount of staff time had been reduced. It was all on the front end. That was the heavy lift. What they were doing with this amendment was recommending moving some remaining funds that were sitting in program administration to the public service activity. They could then give it to Cooperative Christian Ministry to again support the citizens in the community who were still dealing with the effects of Covid, particularly with the moratorium being lifted on evictions. She advised they would like to decrease the program administration line item by \$59,000 and then turn around and increase that to Cooperative Christian Ministry for \$59,000.

Mayor Guess asked Council for any questions.

Ms. Dickerson advised Council to date, which would have been through the month of June, they had helped 556 households and over 1,200 individuals. She advised they tracked it by household size. It really was making an impact.

Council members thanked Ms. Dickerson.

Mayor Guess advised the same rules applied for conducting the public hearing. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. He asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Guess closed the public hearing.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Mayor Guess approval of the Community Development Block Grant 2019 Annual Action Plan Amendment for CARES Act Funding. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Update on Catawba County's Workforce – Presentation by Catawba County Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar.

Deputy City Manager Rodney Miller asked Catawba County Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar to the podium for an update on Catawba County's workforce.

Catawba County Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar presented a PowerPoint presentation. He commented it was a pleasure to come before them as always and give them a little bit of insight regarding some of the issues that they see or had felt regarding labor in this community. As they travel about, they would see a lot of labor signs and people trying to fill those jobs, they have requirements for jobs that they have. It certainly involved the Economic Development Corporation. As Council recalled, their mission was to build a diversified economic base throughout the county, by recruiting new business and industry, by retaining existing industry, and helping them to grow, and to foster the creation of jobs. That was a delicate balancing act and certainly with the things going on in Catawba County, with the number of announcements that the City had made or participated in, it certainly was something. The Economic Development Corporation's annual meeting, which was a couple of weeks ago, and he thought some of the Council members had the opportunity to participate in the meeting by way of Zoom, they focused on labor itself. He advised this was a phenomenal document, which he displayed on the PowerPoint. It was a demographic drought document for the community at large that he was referring to and it was available on the Economic Development Corporation's website. It was one of the best communicating documents that he had seen. He enjoyed good communications and this one really did a good job of telling the problem. He wished it gave more easy answers than there seemed to be. During all of their recent Economic Development Corporation board meetings, they had spent nothing but discussion time on the issue of labor regarding what this community might need. One of the things he wanted Council to understand was that the labor issues that they have did not start during the epidemic, they started long before. They were certainly accelerated during the epidemic, but they certainly would not be over as soon as the epidemic was over either. It was not just Catawba County, it was not just North Carolina, and it was not just the United States. Some of the issues that he was talking about, the speaker at the annual meeting talked about it not being just a

perfect storm, but that perfect storm having a drought, hurricane, tornado and earthquake and all other things as well all at once. If they thought about the conditions that were affecting the employers throughout this community and throughout this country right now, it was an awfully difficult time for people to be doing business no matter what that business was. They had the perfect storm of baby-boomer retirement, but they also had record low labor force participation. A lot of people are opting out of the labor force because they can or because they choose to or because they feel more secure in doing so. The lowest birth rates in the United States history. There was wealth that had been passed down by the baby-boomers and others that was enabling these next generations to opt out as they would not have been able to in the past and be comfortable. A lot of women were choosing to opt out of the labor force. There were opioid addictions that were affecting it. Gamers were making ridiculous amounts of money and not necessarily in a normal 40-hour work week. You hear about somebody that was 21 years old or 17 years old, making \$1 million dollars in gaming. That was pretty phenomenal. The stock market had been doing ridiculous things and he thought right now it had been pretty easy to make money in the stock market and some people might not recognize that it does not always go up. They all certainly hope that it does. There was a significant amount of the population that were choosing to work part-time. Instead of working full-time and working overtime, then they were opting to be comfortable and enjoying part-time work. It was addressed by someone stating it was no longer an employer marketplace, whereas it used to be, certainly the employee has the upper hand at this point, and he thought that they might recognize that. Stephen Shuford of Shurtape Technologies said it best at one of their board meetings, he said "that it is no longer time to just rely on HR efforts, it requires an HR strategy". A long-term workforce and planned strategy for the procurement of workforce. Employees were not just an expense they really are an asset that appreciates over time and that mindset was going to have to be part of the process of their revitalization efforts when it comes to labor.

Mr. Millar discussed the Charlotte region. If they step back and think about what was going on in North Carolina and Charlotte, they saw Apple made a huge announcement in the Raleigh area of a billion-dollar commitment. They did happen to make \$448 million dollars of that commitment in Catawba County, in the Town of Maiden. The last he heard that facility drinks City of Hickory water. Think about what was going on in Raleigh as well as some other phenomenal North Carolina announcements that had occurred in the Charlotte area. A giant company called Centene, at that time was North Carolina's largest economic development commitment of over a billion dollars in that industry sector and creating, he thought 3000 to 6000 jobs, one or the other. There were other employers that had recently announced in the Charlotte region. There was Ball Manufacturing, Rauch Bottling and Red Bull that all worked together within the last three weeks announced almost \$1.7 billion dollars-worth of investment in Cabarrus County at the former Philip Morris facility there. There were other phenomenal activities that were going on. There was the creation of electric vehicles by a company called Arrival. Other companies were locating in that very hot Charlotte market, and it was partly due to the belief that people would move and relocate from the north and the northeast and other parts into this hot section of North Carolina. The promise of coming jobs was benefiting Charlotte itself. What they did several years ago, and he talked to Council about it many times, was the most important economic asset of the two Carolinas was the Charlotte airport. He referred to the PowerPoint. He advised if they placed a clock dial, center it over the Charlotte airport, and they go to the midnight hour, that was the I-77 corridor. Thinking back over time, back in the 1960s when they were building Lake Norman and when I-77 was coming, really, there was not much activity on that I-77 corridor, but in the 70s and 80s it started with Lowe's headquarters and other massive investments and announcements that were happening. It started that clock dial and if they think about it sequentially, it had moved around to Cabarrus County. It moved on to Monroe and Union County, which had been recognized as the fastest growing by percentage municipality in the United States. If they keep going, there was Lancaster County and some of the developments that had been going on down there recently, Ernest and Julio Gallo announced a \$375 million dollar investment in Lancaster County. He commented keep going over to Rock Hill, York, and the Panthers and all the crazy stuff that happened in York County and even Gaston, which used to be a county that you really did not think was going to have much. Gaston had been getting an awful lot of investment. Just look at Belmont and see what was going on there. He referred back to the PowerPoint slide with the clock dial and commented, leaving that nine o'clock to 12 o'clock area of the clock dial, left for Catawba County, there were some geographic challenges. Lake Norman was in the way. Finally, they are getting NC 16 as an arterial that was coming straight up into the Catawba County area. There were some of these barriers as well as if this growth was going to happen, it was going to fill up the clock dial. You start thinking about that. They began marketing several years ago, beginning with their advertising that talked about exploring Charlotte's great Northwest and that had

been received very well. Think about that axis, it was going to develop. Think through that from the perspective of future growth of Charlotte and the opportunities that the City of Hickory had seen already as a result of that growth they promised to continue.

Mr. Millar looked specifically at Catawba County. At the annual meeting, they went through the fact that just in the last year they had announced \$624 million dollars-worth of economic investment in the County, and over 1,000 jobs. With a number of different companies, not just happening within Catawba County company announcements, but throughout the County. He discussed more specifically to Hickory, and the Trivium Corporate Center. That had been a phenomenal investment. He thought that it was only about 37 months ago that they had the groundbreaking for that park. Since that period of time, they had announced \$226 million dollars-worth of new investments in the park with five different companies and an industrial speculative building that had been announced. By any measure that was a phenomenal investment commitment that had been created, 572 jobs had been committed by that. Using the average wage that had been committed within each of those, for example, he referred to the PowerPoint slide, looking at the top of a graph with the commitment by Corning to make 110 jobs at \$55,000, with the commitment by ITM to create 137 jobs at \$65,000. Bear in mind that the Catawba County average wage this year was \$43,920. With investments like that, and weighting them by the number of jobs there, there was wages per year calculations that would give them about \$30 million dollars at full build out by these companies. For example, the pay at ITM for those 137 employees per year would be \$8.9 million dollars-worth of commitment. That was once they create every one of those jobs. The average that was being created in that park was \$52,500 per job. Remembering that Catawba County's average wage was \$43,920 that yields almost 20 percent above the Catawba County average for every job that had been created within that park. That makes a difference when Council goes to do bond ratings. They typically look at the investment a company was committing to because that was revenue stream from a property tax investment, but there was other investments or other commitments that would impact the City's bonds for example, that would also impact every citizen of the City of Hickory, whether they were man, woman, or child. These types of benefits accrue. That was why they want to continue to encourage relocation, to encourage growth of the population base here in order to continue the location of existing industries, the expansion of existing industries, and new industry location.

Mr. Millar referred to the PowerPoint and advised what they wanted to do here was there had been a comment made here or there that, oh gosh, they were only giving it to those industries within Trivium, but the creation of those jobs was taxing the labor pool within this community. They broke it down by year. For example, in 2021, the commitment by Corning was the only one that was likely to be realized during this calendar year. So, 75 of those jobs were going to be created in 2021. A total of 143 jobs were committed to be created by actually all of the other companies combined during calendar year 2022. He noted that 2022 was the largest single year at 143 jobs. Going across the chart to get to that 572, the numbers per year dropped down a little bit. Their total MSA civilian labor force, which in essence was the commuting distance that employees were willing to commute was 172,700 people. If those people that have new jobs created within Trivium Corporate Center, if every one of those jobs were created in a single year, it would make up less than one third of one percent of the entire labor force that was available within that total commuter shed within Trivium. It was not like what they had done here had harmed substantially the labor force availability throughout the County.

Mr. Millar discussed the conclusions that were gained from the discussion of that annual meeting topic. The first point that needed to be made was that employers need to value people more and they need to strategize more about their HR opportunities. The quote "companies will need to adjust to the changing expectations of both older talent and new recruits. Incentives like flexible or reduced hours, mobility, and recognition maybe what draws new people and keeps good employees happy rather than relying on what worked in the past. Remember, it's a new situation. Find out what motivates people in the present and adapt to those circumstances". It was not an employer marketplace. It was not just the fact that employees cost you money, but that investment in those companies would continue to pay-off. This last statement was that they should not just be thinking of this as an employer responsibility. They should be thinking about this, of the individual, the employee himself needs to take it on himself to figure out how he was going to be a benefit to the employer over time. He thought as a community, organizations, institutions, educational facilities, and the City of Hickory itself had responsibilities and needed to attack this from whatever perspective that they have. He asked Council for any questions.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if there was enough planned housing to possibly take care of all of these additional jobs that were going to be at Trivium Corporate Center.

Mr. Millar advised there were numbers of housing opportunities. For example, he thought there was one announced a couple of weeks ago at the end of Short Road, with several 100 single family facilities. There were also a number of different multi-family and mixed-use developments, just like One North Center across the street, those would provide opportunities. Are they sufficient? There were others that had yet to be announced, and there were others that were in the planning stages that could or could not happen. There were substantial numbers of them if they were to all happen.

Alderwoman Patton asked what the distance was for the commuter shed.

Mr. Millar advised typically they thought 30 minutes. It actually extended beyond 30 minutes for the potential workforce to arrive at work. Some mapping goes out as far as 45 minutes. It seldom goes beyond that to count on it. Sometimes it does.

Alderwoman Williams commented this was great, but it was the challenge that they had been talking about in terms of the whole region and like he said, the whole country. What came out of the meeting? What are the next steps in terms of the area? Was there going to be an organized, managed effort to really reach and pull people in or is it kind of giving individual employers the tools?

Mr. Millar thought the immediate comeback was that there was a little bit of shock by people that realized that it was not just a short-term situation and that it was not just the Federal benefits that were causing this. He thought there were lots of reasons why this was happening. The understanding was probably the best thing that came out of that. Since the annual meeting, there had been a number of different less than completely organized discussions by different entities trying to figure out their place in it. He thought there was room for some entity to in essence drive the opportunities, for instance the Chamber. He did not know exactly who that needs to be. He thought that it should not be any single entity necessarily, but a broad representation of entities that all come at it from a different angle.

Alderman Wood asked two questions. The candidate driven nature of the market, was that equally distributed across all wage levels? And secondly, where are these companies getting their confidence that they can fill these jobs? They were talking about hundreds of millions of dollars of investment, and he could not imagine them making a wager with that kind of money without having a high degree of confidence that they could fill the jobs that they were creating.

Mr. Millar replied, this investment opportunity, these announcements are being made, their labor folks are evaluating each market and they were making as good of a decision as they were capable of making with the situations as they are. He thought for the most they were assuming that if they do adopt some of these more flexible hiring practices, if they do make serious changes to their typical operations, i.e., allow people to work from home, allow other changes to be made, and raise wages, which was happening. He had heard recently about a company here in the marketplace that raised every salary within that facility to at least \$30 an hour. They had the ability to pay that from the product that they were creating and the demand for the product that they were selling. He was not sure that every company could do a \$30 an hour wage standard, but to them, it had been successful. How they are convinced? He would say that being a part of North Carolina, being a part of the Charlotte region, being a part of a City that had been aggressively addressing workforce issues. He commented if they would think back from 2012 and the days when all of these plans that are now coming to fruition were being thought about, the entire mantra that was being discussed was how do they address the 20-to-44-year workforce population within the City of Hickory, and within this area? He thought that of any marketplace, they had a better opportunity. He would sure hate to be living in Peoria or any other marketplace, knowing what challenges that they were facing. The marketplaces that were not going to be growing, were really going to have it tough.

Alderman Wood restated his first question. The candidate driven nature of the market, was it equally distributed across all wage levels.

Mr. Millar advised that it seemed to be pretty equally across. He thought the demands of each different strata was pretty different, as he was probably seeing from what he does. It seemed to be fairly common across each sector.

Alderwoman Williams commented they had talked a lot about it and invested actually in training programs. There were a couple of State-of-the-Art training programs that actually led to some of these companies saying this was the place to be. How closely tied had they looked at the demand for jobs with these incoming companies and what was being offered at these training facilities?

Mr. Millar responded the Workforce Solutions Complex, the Manufacturing Solution Center, those facilities were the assets that were driving some of the decisions that these companies and others are considering as they look at this marketplace. If they did not have them, for example, the Workforce Solutions Complex was unlike any other in North Carolina with the exception of Wake Tech in Wake County. Having that asset here truly made a difference and there were other people that were trying to catch back up to what they have. The next step was since they are ahead, how do they stay ahead? Dr. Hinshaw certainly tries to keep his finger on the pulse of what those facilities are facilitating. For example, a couple of weeks ago, there was an academy created for the hospitality industry here in Catawba County at the desire of the hoteliers and restaurateurs. But nevertheless, they were constantly trying to figure out what those were. Within manufacturing itself, they thought they had pretty good assets there to appeal to the types of industries that were going to likely be considering them.

Council members thanked Mr. Millar.

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Small Cities Project Area Grace McLaurin Resigned 7-12-2021 VACANT

**COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
At-Large (Outside City but within HRP) (Council Appoints) VACANT

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Caucasian (Council Appoints) Paul Packard  
(Eligible for Reappointment/Willing to Serve Again)  
Caucasian (Council Appoints) David Walker Resigned 7-11-2021 VACANT  
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT  
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT  
Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT  
Differently Abled and is African American or Other Minority (Council Appoints) VACANT  
Differently Abled (Council Appoints) Beth Whicker  
(Not Eligible for Reappointment)

Mayor Guess nominated Paul Packard for Reappointment and Cliff Moone for Appointment as Caucasian Representatives on the Community Relations Council.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Licensed Architect (Council Appoints) Ernie Sills  
(Not Eligible for Reappointment)  
At-Large (2)(Council Appoints) Mary Moorer  
(Eligible for Reappointment/Does Not Wish to Serve Again)

**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Ward 6 (Patton Appoints) Gail Miller  
(Eligible for Reappointment/Does Not Wish to Serve Again)

**PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)  
Ward 4 (D. Williams Appoints) VACANT  
At-Large (Mayor Appoints) Beth Bowman  
(Not Eligible for Reappointment)

**PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 5-Year Terms) (Appointed by the Mayor)  
Position 3 (Mayor Appoints) VACANT  
Position 9 (Mayor Appoints) (Unexpired Term of Rebecca Clements) VACANT

**WESTERN PIEDMONT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY POLICY BOARD**

John Marshall – Current Alternate

Recommendation of John Marshall as Alternate Delegate on the Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority Policy Board.

Mayor Guess nominated John Marshall as Alternate Delegate on the Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority Policy Board.

**YOUTH COUNCIL**

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 1-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Youth Council Applicant Review Committee Recommends the Following Appointments:

Fred T. Foard  
Homeschool

VACANT  
VACANT

Mayor Guess, seconded by Alderwoman Patton approval of the above nominations. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

XII. Matters Not on Agenda (requires majority vote of Council to consider)

XIII. General Comments by Members of Council, City Manager or City Attorney of a Non-Business Nature

Alderman Seaver commented if they had not seen the new turf field at Hickory High School, he thought it was completed. They would see if it would make champions there.

Mayor Guess advised there were two retirement announcements recently from the fire department. He asked Fire Chief Matthew Hutchinson to let Karl Heffelfinger and Sylvia Martin know that Council, not only recognized them, but appreciated them for their 30 years of service. He believed each of them had 30 years of service and had announced their retirements. They would certainly do that, probably at a more formal time, but he wanted to let them know that they appreciated their service and all that they had done during their years for the City of Hickory, particularly at the fire department.

Alderman Zagaroli commented that the complex was filling up across the street. There were 70 names on a wait list for the apartments across the street, which was a win/win for the City. It was just delightful that was happening. A great place.

Alderwoman Patton commented she would say the same thing because there was some criticism of the City's investment there, but it was an empty parking lot that produced no revenue and look at it what it was today, and it really had changed the downtown area. She thought it had given the City a boost of what they saw as the vision of Hickory.

Mayor Guess concurred.

XIV. Closed Session Per NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(1)(3) to consult with the attorneys regarding the following: (Action on these items, if any, will occur in Open Session)

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Seaver, that Council go into closed session to consult with the attorneys to discuss the items below. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of July 20, 2021 - NCGS §143-318.11(a)(1)
2. Discussion of Litigation – NCGS §143-318.11(a)(3) – Pending Opioid Litigation.

Council convened to closed session at approximately 8:04 p.m.

Council reconvened to open session at approximately 8:54 p.m.

No action was taken upon return to open session.

XV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk